

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were pending in the application. Claims 4-9 and 13-18 were objected to for improper multiple dependent form. Claims 1-3 and 10-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,528,499 (Hagenbuch). Claims 7 and 16 are cancelled by way of this amendment, therefore claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-18 are currently pending. The applicants respond as follows.

Claim Objections

Claims 4-6 and 8-9 have been amended to depend from claims 1 or 2. Claims 13-15 and 17-18 have been amended to depend from claims 10 or 11. These claims are now in proper dependent claim format and the applicants request the objection be lifted.

Section 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite, in part, the electronic information has a format of electronic mail.

The point-to-point infrared or RF network disclosed in Hagenbuch or an equivalent LAN/WAN proposed by the examiner by Official Notice do not teach or suggest the use of electronic mail for communicating data. Hagenbuch describes a one-to-one data link between a vehicle and a central server (Ref. No. 155, Col. 37, lines 12-19). The data link described operates on a polling scheme that can limit the times and places where a data transfer can occur (Col 42, lines 24-37).

In contrast, electronic mail offers significant advantages over such a data link. Electronic mail allows one-to-many and many-to-one communication. Electronic mail is also generally transport independent and does not require a predetermined network type for information transfer. Independent claims 1 and 10, as amended, are patentably distinct from what is taught or suggested by the Hagenbuch reference. For at least this reason, the rejection under section 103 should be removed with respect to claims 1 and 10 and their respective dependent claims, 2-6, 8-9; and 11-15; 17-18.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. No fees are believed due, but should one be required, the Commissioner is directed to Deposit Account 13-2855.

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Respectfully submitted,

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